

Fuel cost

continued from page 1

natural gas. "If you drive up demand, and supply hasn't increased, prices are going to go up," Schwartz said. "Gas companies expect it will take two years before increased supply may

Gas companies expect it will take two years before increased supply may lead to decreased prices. ... Wholesale prices [of natural gas] have doubled since the beginning of the year. We're trying to make customers understand we're not making money off of the gas on raising the prices.

Steve Sechrist
spokesman
Northwest Natural Gas

lead to decreased prices." A strong economy is also a factor in the increased prices. Anytime there is an economic boom, there is an increase in energy use as more businesses expand and houses are built, Schwartz said. Without an increase in the supply of natural gas,

which has been flat for the last few years, the price increase could last as long as two years before prices begin to decline.

Fortunately for most Eugene residents, the price hikes will only affect Oregonians who receive fuel from Northwest Natural Gas. Northwest Natural Gas — Oregon's largest natural gas utility company, supplying 80 percent of the state — increased prices by 24 percent for the 470,000 accounts it serves. Gas bills will increase by about \$60 per year for each account, Northwest Natural Gas spokesman Steve Sechrist said.

Eugene Water and Electric Board, a publicly owned utility, will not be increasing its rates.

EWEB will keep costs down by using wind power and hydroelectric power from the Bonneville Dam, which has its rates fixed through October 2001, said John Mitchell, EWEB's public relations director.

"We implemented all rate increases in April of 2000 — the first increase since 1993 — and will not have a rate increase during 2001," Mitchell said. "It may affect the [price of the] small amount of power we buy on the open market, but EWEB will absorb that cost and not pass it on to customers."

Traditionally, utility companies such as Northwest Natural Gas make their incomes in service charges for transporting gas, hooking up gas in new houses and businesses and other services, Sechrist said. Last month's price hike will be

Reasons for increase in natural gas prices:

1. Construction of a new pipeline that carries gas from Canada [one of Oregon's primary sources] to the Midwest.

2. As the economy booms, business expansion and new residential construction have resulted in a higher use of natural gas and electric resources.

3. Supply has been flat for the last few years and increased use is driving prices up.

Percentage price increases of natural energy resources:

Natural Gas: 21 percent increase

Heating Oil: 40 percent increase

Electricity: Little or no change because most publicly owned utilities use hydroelectric power or other sources that are not expecting rate increases.

Source: Conservation Resource division of the Oregon Office of Energy

passed on to the customers of utility companies, he said, but the companies will not be making any profit from the increase.

"Wholesale prices [of natural gas] have doubled since the beginning of the year," Sechrist said. "We're trying to make customers understand we're not making money off of the gas on raising the prices."

Gas prices

continued from page 1

prices are even higher because of limited resources, said Oregon Petroleum Marketers Association Executive Director Steve O'Toole.

"The whole West Coast has higher prices because the Gulf states have more access to oil imports," he said.

Most of Oregon's crude oil comes from Alaska and is processed in refineries in Seattle, then sent down pipelines. One pipeline runs through Washington and one runs through Oregon. Oregon's line, the Kinder Morgan Line, starts by Vancouver and ends in Eugene.

There are no refineries in Oregon, only storage terminals, making the state dependent on the Seattle refineries, O'Toole said.

"If there were more refineries, the production of oil would rise and the cost would go down," O'Toole said. "There won't be any more refineries built, however, due to environmental concerns."

Depending on the four Seattle refineries can cause problems, O'Toole said.

"Our prices are affected if the refineries have problems," O'Toole said. "Our market is so vulnerable, anything that affects production can change the price [of oil]."

Oregon also has to transport gas south, Bournazian said.

With the pipeline stopping in Eugene, Southern Oregon has to get their oil trucked in from either the northern part of the state or from the San Francisco refineries," Bournazian said. "Getting the gas down there is going to cost more."

The conflict in the Middle East is also affecting prices, said Elliott Eki, AAA Oregon public affairs manager.

"Everything depends on what's happening in the Middle East," Eki said. "A truce in the Middle East is a positive sign for prices, but from what the media has been showing us, it doesn't look like that's going to happen any time soon."

With the recent bombing of the U.S.S. Cole, concern throughout the oil industry increased along with prices.

"Conflicts can interfere with the flow of crude oil," O'Toole said. "Oil went up to about \$40 a gallon after the Cole was bombed."

Prices did eventually go back down, but a similar incident in the future could have the same effect, O'Toole said.

Despite Oregon's lack of production, a gradual decrease in price is still foreseeable, as long as there is an adequate increase in oil stocks, Bournazian said.

SoundCheck

sponsored by **verizon** Long Distance Presents



ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE TO RE-GROUTING YOUR TUB WITH MAYONNAISE



VISUAL MUSIC:

Check out some of your favorite artists performing live on TV. Do it. Now.

Who	When	Where
Madonna	Nov 3	Late Show with David Letterman
Dwight Yoakam	Nov 3	Tonight Show with Jay Leno
Squirrel Nut Zippers	Nov 3	Late Night with Conan O'Brien
Moby	Nov 6	Late Show w/ David Letterman
The Call	Nov 6	Late Late Show w/ Craig Kilborn
The Wallflowers	Nov 8	Tonight Show w/ Jay Leno
Hootie & the Blowfish	Nov 9	Tonight Show w/ Jay Leno
Blur	Nov 9	Late Night w/ Conan O'Brien
Badly Drawn Boy	Nov 10	Late Night w/ Conan O'Brien

NOV. 2nd

COME DOWN TO CHEZ RAY'S Thursday night to enjoy some LIVE MUSIC

WANT TO GET IN FOR FREE?
SEE BELOW FOR VIP INFO!

44W 10th Street • (541) 344-1530

NEW RELEASES: — November 7, 2000

Boiler Room	R Kelly
Cn't Breathe	TP2.com
Coldplay	Killing Flame
Parachutes	Another Breath
Filthy Thievin Bastards	Lungfish
Our Fathers Sent Us	Necrophones
Faraquet	Propagandi
The View From This Tower	Today's Empires
Hammerfall	Tomorrow's Ashes
Renegade	Spice Girls
Keb' Mo'	Forever
The Door	Supa DJ Dimitry
Mucho Macho	Scream Of Consciousness
Death on Wild Onion Drive	

*Release dates are subject to change

WE WANT TO TREAT YOU LIKE A ROCK STAR.

How does 'No Lines, No Cover' at your favorite nightclubs sound to you?

Become a VIP at all SoundCheck events - go to the front of the line, get in for free and enter to win nightly prizes!

www.verizon-ld.com/soundcheck

ROBBIE WILLIAMS

Sing When You're Winning, Capitol Records, by Steve Lichtenstein

Brash. Arrogant. Self-indulgent. Possibly the best words to sum up Robbie Williams, whose second US album (following 1999's appropriately titled *The Ego Has Landed*) finds the former Take That star (the UK's New Kids, er, Backstreet, er N'Sync of the early 90's) at his pop masterful best. Whether it be subtle, earnest ballads like "Better Man" and "Love Calling Earth," or groove thumpers like the infectious "Rock DJ" (with its stunning/nauseating video) or "Knutsford City Limits," Williams is definitely winning. Hence all the singing. Might as well add superb to the list and bulk up the ego a little more.

GPA: 3.6 - Help Robbie's insecurity and listen to: "Let Love Be Your Energy," "The Road to Mandalay," "Rock DJ"

FEEDBACK:

WHAT ARE WE THROWING ON STAGE DURING CONCERTS?

Scissors	20%
Doorknobs	6%
Hissy Fits	24%
Boy Scouts	5%
Traffic Signs	8%
Heat Seeking Grenades	13%
Cous-Cous	15%
Severed Limbs	9%
1987 Ford Escorts	2%
Hamsters	14%

Results based on the transcendental scribbling on the back of a wrinkly one dollar bill.

LOCAL VENUES:

- Adam's Place
30 E Broadway (541) 344-6948
Jazz
- Black Forest
2465 Hillyard Street (541) 344-0816
Various, Rock, Blues
- Cafe Paradiso
115 W Broadway (541) 484-9933
Various, Folk, Dance
- Chez Ray's
44 W 10th (541) 344-1530
Blues, Jazz, Rock
- Doc's Pad
165 W 11th (541) 683-8101
Rock
- Foxfire
4740 Main (541) 747-7900
Springfield
Acoustic, Rock

VIP

Sign Up For **SmartTouch** OR **e-Values**
And Get In FREE To All Soundcheck Events This Semester!
Log On To www.verizon-ld.com/soundcheck

Something going on? Let everyone know! Advertise with the Oregon Daily Emerald
Special University rates. Call 346-3712

